

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 has been amended to designate “RELATED ART” in the legend. No new matter has been added.

A Replacement Sheet and an Annotated Sheet showing the change are attached hereto.

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for examining the pending application. The Office Action dated December 10, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

At the Examiner's request, the Specification has been amended to include reference to WIPO Publication No. WO/2005/106097 in the claim for priority. Also, a caption has been added to Figure 1 to designate it as Related Art.

By this response, claims 5, 7, 9, 12-13, and 15-20 are hereby amended; claims 6, 8, and 10-11 are canceled; and claims 1-4 are withdrawn. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 7, 9, and 12-20 are currently pending. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 5-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 6, 8, 10, and 11 have been canceled; therefore, further consideration is moot.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and asserts that, as amended, claim 5 fully complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, claim 5 has been amended to clarify the method steps of the eccentricity measurement operations by "performing a first eccentricity measurement operation and a first preliminary spin drying operation; performing a second eccentricity measurement operation and comparing a second eccentricity measured at the second eccentricity measurement operation with a first reference value; re-performing the first eccentricity measurement if the second eccentricity is larger than the first reference value; comparing a first eccentricity measured at the first eccentricity measurement with a second reference value; performing a second preliminary spin drying operation without re-performing the first preliminary spin drying operation if the first eccentricity is smaller than the second reference value; and performing a main spin drying operation."

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and asserts that, as amended, claim 7 fully complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, claim 7 has been amended to clarify, with relation to independent claim 5, the control method steps "performing a third eccentricity measurement operation after the second preliminary spin drying operation to

determine whether the measured eccentricity is larger than or equal to a third reference value, and, if so, re-performing the first eccentricity measurement operation a second time; and proceeding to the performing of the main spin drying operation without re-performing the first spin drying operation and the second spin drying operation if an eccentricity measured at the secondly re-performed first eccentricity measurement operation is smaller than or equal to the first reference value.”

Further, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and asserts that, as amended, claims 9-20 fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, claim 9 has been amended to clarify the operational steps as in “performing a second eccentricity measurement operation; determining whether an eccentricity measured at the second eccentricity measurement operation is larger than a second reference value, and, if so, repeating the first eccentricity measurement operation until the eccentricity becomes smaller than the first reference value; performing a second preliminary spin drying operation without repeating the first preliminary spin drying operation; performing a third eccentricity measurement operation; starting a main spin drying operation according to a comparison result between an eccentricity measured at the third eccentricity measurement operation and a third reference value; and terminating the whole spin drying process after the main spin drying operation.”

Claims 12-13 and 15-20 have also been amended to follow from independent claim 9 in which they depend. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 5, 7, 9, 12-20.

Claims 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant’s admitted prior art (“AAPA”) of Fig. 1 in the instant application.

Claims 8 has been canceled; therefore, further consideration of this is moot.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and asserts that, as amended, claim 5 is not anticipated by Figure 1. Claim 5 has been amended as discussed above.

Figure 1 does not disclose at least “re-performing the first eccentricity measurement if the second eccentricity is larger than the first reference value” and “performing a second preliminary spin drying operation without re-performing the first preliminary spin drying operation if the first eccentricity is smaller than the second reference value,” as recited in independent claim 5.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 5.

Claims 5-20 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0213070 to Lee et al. (hereinafter “Lee”).

Claims 6, 8, 10, and 11 have been canceled; therefore, further consideration is moot.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and asserts that, as amended, claim 5 is not anticipated by *Lee*. Claim 5 has been amended as discussed above. *Lee* fails to disclose at least “performing a second preliminary spin drying operation without re-performing the first preliminary spin drying operation if the first eccentricity is smaller than the second reference value,” as recited in claim 5.

Lee only discloses that performing plural eccentricity measurements (S30 & S70) with a preliminary spin dry operation (S20 & S60), and if the second eccentricity is larger than the second reference eccentricity (“YES” in Fig. 6, S100), go back to S10 and re-performing a preliminary spin dry operation (S20 & S60). *Lee* does not disclose that S20 be omitted.

Further, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and asserts that, as amended, claim 9 is not anticipated by *Lee*. *Lee* fails to disclose, at least, the operational steps as in “performing a second eccentricity measurement operation; determining whether an eccentricity measured at the second eccentricity measurement operation is larger than a second reference value, and, if so, repeating the first eccentricity measurement operation until the eccentricity becomes smaller than the first reference value; performing a second preliminary spin drying operation without repeating the first preliminary spin drying operation; performing a third eccentricity measurement operation; starting a main spin drying operation according to a comparison result between an eccentricity measured at the third eccentricity measurement operation and a third reference value; and terminating the whole spin drying process after the main spin drying operation,” as recited in claim 9.

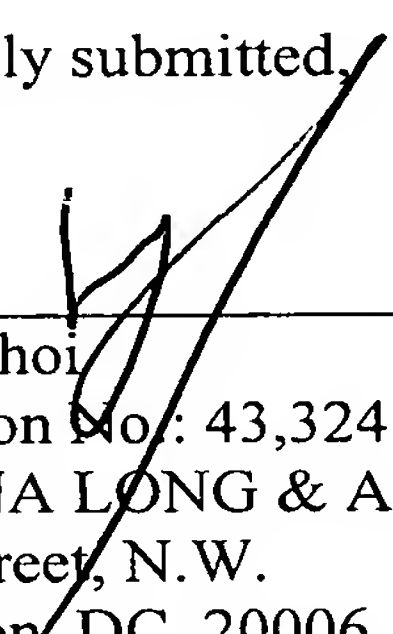
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5 and 9 are allowable over *Lee*. Claims 7 and 12-20, which depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 5 and 9, are also allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 5, 7, 9, and 12-20.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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